

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 01571 171924Z

71

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,BE,EEC,NATO

SUBJECT: TINDEMANS EXPATRIATES ON DECLINING U.S POWER AND HIS  
WISE MAN REPORT

SUMMARY: IN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS  
SAYS US NO LONGER POSSESSES MORAL AND PRACTICAL LEADERSHIP  
AS BEFORE AND THAT HAS ADVERSELY AFFECTED EUROPE.

HE URGES EUROPEANS TO REINFORCE THE EUROPEAN PILLAR. HE  
EXPLAINS AGAIN WHAT HE MEANS TO SAY IN HIS WISE-MAN

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 01571 171924Z

REPORT ON EC SECURITY AND 'EUROPE AT TWO SPEEDS'.

END SUMMARY.

1. IN TWO- PART QUESTION-AND-ANSWER INTERVIEW WITH CONSERVATIVE BRUSSELS DAILY, LA LIBRE BELGIQUE, FEB. 14 AND 16, PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS COMMENTED ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS. THE FOLLOWING ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST ABROAD.

2. US POWER AND SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST COOPERATION IN EUROPE. ASKED WHETHER HE WAS CONCERNED BY EVOLUTION OF SOCIALIST PARTIES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH COMMUNISTS,TINDEMANS REPLIED: " TO SPEAK TRUTHFULLY, I ASK MYSELF ABOUT TWO EVOLUTIONS. FIRST THAT OF THE UNITED STATES IT IS CLEAR THAT DESPITE ALL ITS GOOD INTENTIONS THE GREATEST DEMOCRACY IN THE WORLD DOES NOT POSSESS ANY MORE THE MORAL AND PRACTICAL LEADERSHIP THAT IT ASSUMED SOME YEARS AGO,WHICH UNCONTESTABLY CAUSES A WAVERING IN THE WESTERN WORLD. FURTHER,THERE IS THE EVOLUTION OF THE YOUNG GENERATIONS IN EUROPE. IT IS CURIOUS IN THIS RESPECT THAT IN SUCH A SHORT TIME ONE COULD FORGET THE CONSEQUENCES OF A TOTALITARIAN REGIME. WHY ARE THE GERMANS DEFINITELY IN FAVOR OF A MARKET ECONOMY? UNDOUBTEDLY PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE THEY KNEW A REGIME WHERE ALMOST EVERYTHING WAS DECIDED BY THE STATE AND THEY SUFFERED FROM IT. TODAY A NEW GENERATION SEEMS TO BE TEMPTED ANEW BY THE ABSOLUTISM OF THE TOTALITARIAN REGIMES. THAT VEXES ME AND SURPRISES ME. I HOPE THAT THE REVEL BOOK,THE TOTALITARIAN TEMPTATION, WILL BE WIDELY READ.

3. THE EC AND SECURITY. POINTING OUT HE HAD MADE NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON SECURITY IN HIS WISE-MAN REPORT BECAUSE NONE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE NINE, TINDEMANS SAID HE RESTRICTED HIMSELF TO MAKING THIS POINT: " IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SPEAK OF A SINGLE VOICE ON THE BIG INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS IF ONE DOES NOT HAVE A COMMON EVALUATION OF SECURITY. AT THE CSCE IN HELSINKI EUROPE SPOKE WITH ONE VOICE. DOES NOT SUCH AN ATTITUDE SUPPOSE AT LEAST AN EXAMINATION IN COMMON OF THE PROBLEMS OF SECURITY?"

4. RISING SOVIET POWER AND US ISOLATIONISM. ASKED UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 01571 171924Z

WHETHER HE DISAGREED WITH DEFENSE MINISTER VANDEN BOEYNANTS WHO SPOKE RECENTLY OF SOVIET AGGRESSIVENESS AND U.S. ISOLATIONIST TENDENCIES,TINDEMANS REPLIED: " CERTAINLY NOT. MOREOVER,I SAID IN THE PARLIAMENT WHEN THE QUESTION OF THE (F-104 REPLACEMENT) AIRPLANES CAME UP THAT SOONER OR LATER WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATO THE EUROPEAN PILLAR HAD TO BE REINFORCED. MOREOVER,WAS IT NOT AN ISSUE IN THE PRESS ALL THAT TIME THAT FRANCE JOIN EUROGROUP?"

5. EUROPE AT TWO SPEEDS. TINDEMANS HAD ANOTHER TRY AT CLARIFYING HIS CONCEPT OF MOVING DIVERSE COUNTRIES TOWARD FULL UNION: " WHAT I PROPOSE IS EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE OF A 'EUROPE AT TWO SPEEDS'. THAT EXISTS NOW. THERE ARE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF THE SNAKE AND THOSE WHO DO NOT TAKE PART. I PROPOSE TO 'COMMUNITIZE' THE SNAKE AND THEREBY MAKE THE COMMISSION PARTICIPATE. THE LATTER COULD THEN PLAY ITS NORMAL ROLE WHICH IS TO MAKE PROPOSALS. IN COMMON WE WOULD DEFINE THE POLICY TO FOLLOW AND DECIDE ON THE MEASURES OF AID TO ACCORD THOSE WHO ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO ACCEPT OR TO APPLY THE MEASURES WE HAVE DECIDED ON TOGETHER."

RENNER

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